



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Mark R. Warner
Governor

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**VIRGINIA PEDIATRICIANS RECOGNIZE GOVERNOR
WARNER'S EFFORTS TO ASSIST NEW PARENTS**

~New Parent Kits key part of Governor's Education for a Lifetime Initiative~

RICHMOND – The Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatricians (AAP) today praised Governor Mark R. Warner's leadership in the creation of the New Parent Kit, a key component of the Governor's Education for a Lifetime initiative. A total of 110,000 kits, in both English and Spanish, will be distributed to new parents all across Virginia this year, providing new mothers and fathers with clear, easy-to-understand information on a wide range of parenting issues, including health care, infant safety, and a guide to additional parenting resources.

"This kit is an exceptional educational tool for families and will help improve access to community resources," said Leslie Ellwood, President of the Virginia Chapter of the AAP. "We celebrate the Governor's concern for all of Virginia's smallest citizens as shown in the New Parent Kit project."

The New Parent Kits provide parents with important resources to give their children the best start in life. Chapter members said they were particularly impressed with the way the first-year calendar and the "Preparing for Parenthood" component offer guidance for parents interwoven with accurate information about all aspects of new baby development.

"I am very appreciative of the AAP's recognition of our efforts to focus on early childhood development in Virginia," Governor Warner said. "AAP has been an indispensable partner in this effort to foster healthy families and quality infant care in Virginia. The New Parent Kits provide valuable information about child care, health insurance, health and other community resources, and this will help ensure that Virginia's new mothers and fathers are better equipped to care for their children."

The Virginia chapter of AAP played an integral role in the development of "Getting Connected," a resource guide and a key component of the New Parent Kit.

The kit was made possible through a public-private funding partnership. Governor Warner commended organizations that helped coordinate development and distribution of the kits. The Freddie Mac Foundation is the lead sponsor in the private sector. Other sponsors

include: Carilion Health System, Children's Medical Center at the University of Virginia, Comprehensive Health Investment Program, Dominion (formerly Dominion Virginia Power), Family and Children's Trust Fund, HarperCollins Children's Books, Healthy Families, Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children, iParent Magazine, Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia, Resource Mothers Program, Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Virginia Chapter of the American Association of Pediatrics, Virginia Hospital Center and the Virginia Departments of Social Services, Health, Medical Services and General Services.

For more information on the New Parent Kit, go to
<http://www.dss.state.va.us/pub/pdf/toolkit.pdf>.

For more information on the Governor's Education for a Lifetime Initiative, go to
<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/Initiatives/Ed4Life/index.htm>.

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